## PRESS RELEASE: NEW DISNEY SHOW REPRESENTS LEBANESE CULTURE (FT. MUSIC BY LEILA MILKI)

Disney Junior's new animated TV series, "**The Rocketeer**," celebrates Lebanese culture and cuisine in its most recent episode entitled "Recipe For Disaster." The show is an endearing and empowering remake of the original 1991 film, this time featuring a female protagonist, Kit Secord, as the superhero, along with her Lebanese mother, Sareena Secord (voiced by Lebanese-American actress <u>Kathy Najimy</u>), who runs a local diner (serving Mediterranean food).

The Disney show's Emmy-nominated songwriter, **Beau Black**, recruited Lebanese-American musical artist Leila Milki to write and perform an original song, entitled "Enjoy Your Meal," for the series' ninth episode, "Recipe for Disaster," which first aired on **January 24, 2020**, on Disney Junior and Disney Channel.

**The lyrics** (written by show-runner <u>Nicole Dubuc</u>), feature Lebanese dishes in its verses ("Kibbeh, tahini, baba ganouj...hummus, loubieh, kousa, fattoush...Muttabal, halaweh, mujadara, ma'moul...mouhalabieh, labneh, fatayer w ful"), and culminate in an energetic Arabic/English chorus: "Ahla w sahla, Welcome, welcome! Sa7a wa Hana, Enjoy your meal!"

**The song recording**, produced by Beau Black, features vocals, piano, and an original melody/musical arrangement composed by singer-songwriter Leila Milki. It also showcases Lebanese drummer <u>Marc El</u> <u>Khoury</u> on doumbek and percussion.

"Enjoy Your Meal" is available for **streaming** on Spotify (<u>https://spoti.fi/38zqMaf</u>), Apple Music/ iTunes (<u>https://apple.co/30W1RLh</u>), and Youtube (<u>https://youtu.be/K5PRZBTn2C</u>).

**The episode plot summary** is as follows: "Kit and Sareena have made some renowned food from Grandma Sitti's recipe that has been passed down through every generation. A food truck chef named Cast-Iron Chef comes to Hughesville. When Kit and Sareena refuse to expose the secret ingredients, Cast-Iron Chef tries to steal them to improve his food truck business. As the Rocketeer, Kit must rescue the cookbook and expose Cast-Iron Chef's scheme." - taken from <u>The Rocketeer Wikipedia page</u>.

"Good morning Grandma 'Sitti,' it's Lebanese lunch day!" - announces Kit in the episode's opening lines, as she greets a portrait of her Lebanese grandmother and pulls out a cherished family cookbook (ft. Lebanon's emblematic cedar) from a drawer at her mother Sareena's diner. "Mom and I will take good care of your cookbook, just like always."

Leila Milki's song is then cued, as the soundtrack to Kit and Sareena's baba ghanoush preparations. The song **appears twice** in the episode: minute **01:01-02:12**, **and 11:50-12:08**.

## Dialogue highlights, as mother and daughter are cooking:

"Grandma Sitti's recipe says to mash it by hand, so we do!" - Kit

"That's part of what makes it taste so good - it's made with love. And, strong arms!" - Sareena

"You know the recipe by heart, mom - why do you use the book?" - Kit

"...t makes me feel like Grandma Sitti is here with us, looking over my shoulder and saying..." - Sareena "...make sure not to leave any stems on the parsley!" - Kit

## **Episode Links**:

- "Recipe for Disaster" is available for streaming on DisneyNow (log in via your TV provider): <u>https://disneynow.com/shows/the-rocketeer/season-01/episode-09-recipe-for-disaster-the-critter-gang/vdka15727206</u>
- It is also available for purchase on Youtube: <u>https://youtu.be/HROjcuPqikQ</u>

## **Episode Still Shots:**





